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Democratic Left

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## Democratic Left Annual Delegate Conference : Information Submitted by Candidates for the NEC Elections

Democratic left

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## **The following candidates have submitted the attached information in support of their candidacy for the NEC elections:**

### **Sylvie Batt**

First elected to the National Executive of Democratic Left at its founding conference in 1992. An excellent attendance record, and an assertive contributor at meetings means that members can be ensured their voice will be heard through this NEC member!

Activity at national level is focused on foreign policy and the national women's health strategy.

As a member of the International Committee and its sub-group on the Inter-Governmental Conference, Sylvie contributed to the DL submission to the White Paper on Foreign Policy. She frequently represents Democratic Left at conferences on European security and defence, and has a particular interest in peace studies.

A native French speaker, she worked with the French media during the Divorce referendum and constantly monitors reporting on Northern Ireland, to ensure a balanced view is represented abroad.

A former local election candidate in the Dun Laoghaire Constituency, Sylvie is currently involved in the local DL campaign to ensure adequate drug treatment facilities are set up as a matter of urgency.

Voluntary Tutor, Dun Laoghaire Adult Literacy Scheme

Member: Irish Council of the European Movement

DL representative on New European Left Forum Women's Network.

Sylvie works as a freelance translator and interpreter.

### **John Bennett**

Constituency Dublin North West

Background: I have been a member of Democratic Left since it's foundation. Before this I was a member of the Workers' Party. I have been a political and community activist for over ten years.

I am currently chair of the Dublin North West Constituency and a founder member of a new branch in the Botanic Avenue / Phibsboro area.

I have been involved in the community development sector for over 15 years. Initially as a youth worker in the Liberties and now as a community worker in the Neilstown/Clondalkin area of Dublin.

I am a member of the Community Workers' Co-Operative and was recently its Chairperson.

I have a lot of experience of working at community level with many problems that are a priority for Democratic Left i.e. unemployment, local government reform, poverty etc. As a member of the NEC I will seek a sharpening of DL policy in these areas.

I am concerned about the way the party develops its policy and how it involves members in the creation of these policies. As a member of the NEC I will seek to explore how the party can enhance its policy making structures and how it can involve more members in the policy making process.

### **Pat Brady**

Member of outgoing Executive

General Secretary, Irish Veterinary Union

### **Grainne Duggan**

I am a 35 years old, native of Cork, but living in Waterford, where I work as a teacher in a Post Leaving Cert. college. I have been a member of Democratic Left since its foundation, and am active as secretary of the Waterford City branch. Being in daily contact with young people, I have a particular interest in the issues that concern them, especially unemployment and training, and financial support of education. I believe I can bring my experience of these matters, as well as personal experience of unemployment and emigration to bear on the workings of the NEC.

I am also anxious to see the NEC becoming more representative of the country as a whole. Many issues are seen from a different perspective from outside 'the Pale', and it is important that this is taken into account.

### **Michael Enright**

Michael Enright represents Democratic Left on Wexford Corporation and is also a Board member of Teastas - The National Certification Authority. He is co-founder of Wexford and New Ross Centres for the Unemployed and a former Chair of Wexford Council of Trade Unions. A member of the T.U.I. he was a member of Wexford Town VEC for nine years. Michael Enright is a member of the outgoing Executive. If re-elected he will work to ensure that Democratic Left grows as a distinctive and independent democratic socialist party.

**P.T.O.**



**Cathy Flanagan**

Secretary Dublin North East Constituency.

Former secretary and P.R.O. of Democratic Left Youth

**Lorraine Glendenning**

Member Dublin North Central. Member outgoing National Executive Committee, Chairperson of Cultural Committee, which produced response to Green Paper on Broadcasting Member Steering Committee for 1996 ADC.

Qualified Arts Administrator. Presently employed with Tony Heffernan in the Government Press Office.

Provides government information for councillors, candidates and party members. Edits Update, which is sent to all members of Forum. Has a particular interest in community employment issues, the media and the arts.

**John Kelleher**

Alderman John Kelleher who is a secondary school teacher, has been a member of Cork City Council since 1982.

He is a branch chairperson and Central Executive Council member, of the Association of Secondary Teachers (A.S.T.I.).

He was Director of Elections for Deputy Kathleen Lynch TD in the 1994 bye-election in Cork North Central.

**Deirdre O'Connell**

Founder member of Democratic Left

Officerships: Chair Dublin South Central Constituency 1993 / 1994

Chair : International Committee 1994 / 95

Committee Memberships International Committee

Special Interests Human Rights, development issues, equality issues, free and democratic access to information (especially via the new telecommunications technology, i.e. Internet etc.) I have a particular interest in using the new technologies to enable political discussion on the left and to disseminate information about Democratic Left at home and abroad.

NEC Role: If elected to the NEC, I would hope to be involved in developing party policy in the above areas, as well as participating in the general development of party policy.

**Hilary Tovey (Dublin South East)**

A senior lecturer in Sociology at TCD, I have a keen interest in social and political affairs in Ireland and Europe, and a particular expertise in the areas of food, agriculture, the environment and rural development, as well as poverty, crime and social inequality. One of my aims is to convince the party that 'sustainable development' is a serious issue for socialists to address. I have been a faithful footslogger for the party in all the elections we have fought, been a Constituency Officer, spent one year on the National Executive ( and failed to get re-elected the next), been a member of the party's Environment Committee during its sporadic existence, and am a continuing ( and continuously unsuccessful) aspirant to be allowed to join the Economics Committee. I have some concerns about the direction in which the party seems to be currently developing (particularly the apparent lack of interest in maintaining open lines of communication with ordinary members, operating in both directions) and if elected would represent these as forcefully as possible to the National Executive.

**Paul Sweeney**

A trade union economist. Was one of the negotiators in the 'Programme for Renewal'. He is author of a book on public enterprise and privatisation, of chapters in several other books on economics and has written many articles in journals and newspapers on business and economics.

He is chair of the Economics Committee (open to all constructive contributors) and of Democratic Left's national policy committee. His major ambition for DL in government would be to see a crusade to really tackle long term unemployment, and there never has been a better time to do this than NOW!